

Application No.: 09/770,070
Amendment Dated: April 12, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: January 12, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated. A complete set of the claims is included below, reflecting added subject matter (*underlining*) and deleted subject matter (*strikethrough*), as well as the current status of each claim. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) A personal digital assistant comprising:

a processor;

a memory unit to store instructions for the processor;

a wireless communications device to wirelessly transmit a control signal;

an internal clock integrated within said personal digital assistant;

a display device; and

a bus coupled to the processor, the memory unit, the wireless communications device, and the display device to communicate information, wherein:

the personal digital assistant is configured to:

display a device schedule menu, via the display device, to permit a user to directly select an external device via the device schedule menu for which operation of the external device is to be controlled in accordance with time data directly entered via the device schedule menu; and

wirelessly transmit via the wireless communications device, at a first time corresponding to the time data, a control signal to cause the device to perform a first action, said first time indicated by said internal clock.

36. (Previously Presented) The personal digital assistant of claim 35, wherein the personal digital assistant is further configured to receive, via the wireless communications device, a signal from the external device in response to the external device receiving the control signal from the personal digital assistant.

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37. (Previously Presented) The personal digital assistant of claim 36, wherein the signal received via the wireless communications device is an acknowledgement from the external device.

38. (Previously Presented) The personal digital assistant of claim 36, wherein the signal received via the wireless communications device includes status information from the external device.

39. (Previously Presented) The personal digital assistant of claim 35, wherein the personal digital assistant is further configured to:
wirelessly transmit via the wireless communications device, at a second time corresponding to the time data, a second control signal to cause the external device to perform a second action.

40. (Previously Presented) The personal digital assistant of claim 35, wherein the first action includes one of activating the external device, deactivating the external device, or adjusting a setting of the external device.

41. (Previously Presented) The personal digital assistant of claim 35, wherein the personal digital assistant is configured to:
permit a user to enter data to the device schedule menu for controlling operation of a plurality of external devices, the operation of each of the plurality of external devices to be controlled in accordance with respective time data entered via the device schedule menu for a corresponding one of the plurality of external devices.

42. (Previously Presented) The personal digital assistant of claim 35, wherein the personal digital assistant is further configured to:

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permit a user to enter a regular time period for the personal digital assistant to wirelessly retransmit, via the wireless communications device, the control signal to cause the external device to perform the first action.

43. (Previously Presented) The personal digital assistant of claim 35, wherein the personal digital assistant is further configured to:

wirelessly transmit, via the wireless communications device, the control signal through a cell phone to the external device.

44. (Previously Presented) The personal digital assistant of claim 35, wherein the personal digital assistant is further configured to:

wirelessly transmit, via the wireless communications device, the control signal through a relay to the external device.

45. (Previously Presented) The personal digital assistant of claim 35, wherein the personal digital assistant is further configured to:

alarm before wirelessly transmitting the control signal; and
permit a user to cancel the wireless transmitting of the control signal before the control signal is wirelessly transmitted after the alarming.

46. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having instructions recorded therein for at least one processor, said at least one processor having an integrated internal clock, the machine-readable medium comprising:

instructions for displaying a device schedule menu to permit a user to directly select an external device via the device schedule menu for which operation of the external device is to be controlled in accordance with time data directly entered via the device schedule menu, and
instructions for wirelessly transmitting, at a first time corresponding to the time data, a control signal to cause the device to perform a first action, said first time indicated by said integrated internal clock.

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47. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 46 further comprising:

instructions for receiving a signal from the external device in response to the device receiving the control signal.

48. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 47, wherein the signal is an acknowledgment from the external device.

49. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 47, wherein the signal includes status information from the external device.

50. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 46 further comprising:

instructions for wirelessly transmitting, at a second time corresponding to the time data, a second control signal to cause the external device to perform a second action.

51. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 46, wherein the first action includes one of activating the external device, deactivating the external device, or adjusting a setting of the external device.

52. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 46 further comprising:

instructions for permitting a user to enter data to the external device schedule menu for controlling operation of a plurality of external devices, the operation of each of the plurality of external devices to be controlled in accordance with respective time data entered via the device schedule menu for a corresponding one of the plurality of external devices.

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53. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 46 further comprising:

instructions for permitting a user to enter a regular time period for wirelessly retransmitting the control signal to cause the external device to perform the first action.

54. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 46 further comprising:

instructions for wirelessly transmitting the control signal through a cell phone to the external device.

55. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 46 further comprising:

instructions for wirelessly transmitting the control signal through a relay to the external device.

56. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 46 further comprising:

instructions for alarming before wirelessly transmitting the control signal; and instructions for permitting a user to cancel the wireless transmitting of the control signal before the control signal is wirelessly transmitted after the alarming.

57. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

displaying a device schedule menu, on a portable handheld device, to permit a user to directly select a second device via the device schedule menu for which operation of the second device is to be controlled in accordance with time data directly entered via the device schedule menu, said portable handheld device having an internal clock; and

wirelessly transmitting, at a first time corresponding to the time data, a control signal to cause the second device to perform a first action, said first time indicated by said internal clock.

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58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 further comprising:
wirelessly receiving a signal from the second device in response to the second device receiving the control signal.
59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the received signal is an acknowledgment from the second device.
60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the received signal includes status information from the second device.
61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 further comprising:
wirelessly transmitting, at a second time corresponding to the time data, a second control signal to cause the second device to perform a second action.
62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the first action includes one of activating the device, deactivating the device, or adjusting a setting of the second device.
63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, further comprising:
permitting a user to enter data to the device schedule menu for controlling operation of a plurality of second devices, the operation of each of the plurality of second devices to be controlled in accordance with respective time data entered via the device schedule menu for a corresponding one of the plurality of second devices.
64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 further comprising:
permitting a user to enter a regular time period for wirelessly retransmitting the control signal to cause the second device to perform the first action.
65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 further comprising:
wirelessly transmitting the control signal through a cell phone to the second device.

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66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 further comprising:
wirelessly transmitting the control signal through a relay to the second device.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 further comprising:
alarming before wirelessly transmitting the control signal; and
permitting a user to cancel the wireless transmitting of the control signal before the control signal
is wirelessly transmitted after the alarming.